









## POST-OFFICE NOTIFICATIONS.

A MAIL WILL CLOSE  
For Amoy, Taiwan, and Tamsui.—Per *Taiwan*,

to-day, the 18th instant, at 11.30 a.m.  
 -*Per Manila*, *Per Madan*, to-day, the 18th instant, at 2.30 p.m.  
 -*Per Calcutta*, *Per Volga*, to-day, the 18th instant, at 3.30 p.m.  
 -*Per Shanghai*, *Per Dinsed*, to-day, the 18th instant, at 4.30 p.m.  
 -*Per Shanghai*, *Per Iravaddy*, to-day, the 18th instant, at 5 p.m. Late letters received from 5.10 to 5.30 p.m., with 18 cents rate fee.  
 -*Per Swatow*, *Sunday*, and *Poochow*, *Per Dampala*, on Sunday, the 21st inst., at 4 a.m.  
 -*Per Port Darwin*, *Cooktown*, and *Sydney*, *Per Thales*, on Tuesday, the 23rd instant, at 11.30 a.m.

**MAILS BY THE FRENCH PACKET.**  
 The French Contrebande Packet "DUBOIS" will sail from Hongkong on THURSDAY, the 18th April, with Mails to and

through the United Kingdom and Kampoa,  
viz. Marseilles : to Saigon, Singapore, Batavia,  
Calle, Australia, New Zealand, Panama, P. R.  
and Alexandria. This is the best opportunity  
for forwarding Correspondence to East Africa,  
St. Helena, and Ascension.

Letters may also be forwarded to India by  
this route.

The following will be the hours of CLOSING  
the Mails, &c. :-

WEDNESDAY, 17th April.

5 P.M. Money-Order Office closes. Post-Office  
closes except the Near Box, which remains  
open all night.

THURSDAY, 18th April.

7 A.M. Post Office opens for sale of Stamps,  
Registry of Letters, and Posting of all corre-  
spondence.

10 A.M. Registry of Letters closes.

11 A.M. Post Office closes except for Letter Lot-  
11.10 A.M. Letters (but Letters only) may be  
sent on payment of a Letter Fee of 18 cents  
extra postage, until  
11.30 A.M. when the Post Office CLOSES en-  
tirely.

**MAILS BY THE ENGLISH PACKET.**  
The English Company's MAIL "KASHGAR"  
will be despatched with the Mails for Europe,  
&c., on SATURDAY, the 20th April.

The following will be the hours of clearing the  
Mails, &c. —

FRIDAY 19th April.

5 P.M. Money Order Office closes.

6 P.M. Post Office closes except the NIGHT BOX,  
which remains open all night.

SATURDAY, 20th April.

7 A.M. Post Office opens for sale of Stamps,  
Receipts for Letters, and Posting of all extra  
postage.

10 A.M., Post Office closes except for Late Letters. Registry of Letters ceases.

10.15 A.M., Letters may be posted on payment of a Late Fee of 16 cents extra postage, until 11.30 A.M., when the Post Office CLOSSES only.

11.30 A.M., Letters (but Letters only) addressed to the United Kingdom *via* Brindisi, or to Singapore, may be posted on board the Packet with Late Fee of 48 cents extra postage, until 11.50 A.M., when the Mail is finally closed.

**MAILS BY THE UNITED STATES' PACKET**

The United States Mail Packet "CHINA" will be despatched on THURSDAY, the 23rd April, with Mails for Japan, San Francisco,

and the United States, which will be closed as follows -

2 P.M. Registry of Letters ceases.

2.30 P.M. Post Office closes and Letters (except for Non-Union Countries) may be posted on board the Packet with Last Day of 18 cents extra Postage, until the time of departure.

Correspondence for Non-Union West Indies (except the Bahamas and Hayti), Costa Rica, Honduras, Monte Video, New Granada, Paraguay, and Uruguay can no longer be sent by this route.

**MAILS BY THE TOREEBS STRAITS PACKET**

The Australian Contract Packet "BOWEN" LEAVES

For the best Despatched Letters, consignment to the S.S. "Herald" is advised, with Mails for Singapore, Sumatra, Ceylon, Cutch, Malacca, Borneo, Kappel Bay, Brisbane, Sydney, Tasmania, New Zealand, and Melbourne.

Correspondence cannot be registered after 11.15 A.M.

The Mails will be closed at 11.30 A.M. Supper and Mail on board with late fee of 18 cents till time of departure.

Correspondence for New Zealand must be specially directed via Torres Straits, or it will be sent via Galle.

Correspondence for Southern and Western Australia can be sent by this route if desired, but as a general rule it is better to send it via Galle.

**PATTERNS.**

Some difficulty is experienced in obtaining a general understanding of what is a *Pattern*. It is a *bona fide* sample of goods which the sender has for sale, or of goods which he wishes to order. It is to consist of the smallest possible quantity compatible with showing what the goods are, and must have no intrinsic value.

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The attention of owners, agents, and charterers of steamers is drawn to the provisions of The Post Office Ordinance, 1876, which comes into force on the 23rd instant.

Under the old Ordinance no notice was required of the departure of a vessel, if not adver-

Notice is now required of any departure, though with regard to sailing ships, the old rule will practically remain in force, that notice need not be sent unless asked for.

Section XXV. requires that the first notice be sent to the Post Office.

Section XXVI. requires that if steamers plying regularly on or fixed days, notice of any change in the day or hour will be sufficient.

Stamped correspondence may still be sent on board any vessel after the Mail is closed at the Post Office.

The Postmaster-General takes the opportunity of drawing the attention of the fact that any such words as Despatches will close at 11 A.M. added to the advertisement of a vessel are

**SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' LETTERS.**  
Privates in H.M. Army or Navy, Non-commissioned Officers (but not Warrant Officers, viz., Assistant Engineer, Gunner, Boatswain, Carpenter), Army Schoolmasters (not Superintending or First Class) or Schoolmistresses may send half-dozen letters to the United Kingdom via Southampton, or to the United Kingdom via the India Office, British Packet, for themselves. Hongkong stamps

will prepare this class of correspondence exactly the same as Imperial Stamps.

Soldiers' and Sailors' letters are, however, charged as ordinary letters if they do not conform to the following regulations.

1.—Not to exceed half an ounce. No double letters are allowed.

2.—If from a Soldier or Sailor, his class or description must be stated in full on the letter, and the Commanding Officer must sign his name, with name of Regiment, or Ship, &c., in full.

3.—If to a Soldier or Sailor, his class or description must be stated in full, with name of Regiment, or Ship, &c., in full.

Most countries to which Freighting is done Correspondence having joined the General Postal Union or being probably about to do so, it is necessary that the following rules be strictly observed:

- 1.—Postage, whether to be registered or unregistered, can be received for Postage if it contains gold or silver money, jewels, precious articles, or anything that, as a general rule, is liable to Customs duties.
- 2.—This Regulation prohibits the sending of portions of valuable articles, and the quantity sent be so small as to make the sample of no value.
- 3.—The limits of weight allowed are as follows:—

BOOKS AND PAPERS.—To the British Office, 5lb.  
PATTERNS.—5lb., if without intrinsic value.  
BOOKS AND PAPERS.—To the Continent, 2s.,  
1lb.  
PATTERNS.—8 oz.  
4.—The following articles cannot be sent by  
post at all:—Glass, Liquids, Gunpowder,  
Matches, Candles, Soap, Indigo, Dye-stuffs, or  
any other substance dangerous to the Mails or offensive  
or injurious to persons dealing with them.



